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PROPOSED BASIC PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1994 AND 1995

Note by the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Economic and Social Council, in accordance with rule 8 of its rules of procedure, shall draw up at its organizational session, with the assistance of the Secretary-General, its basic programme of work.

2. At its second regular session of 1988, the Council, in resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its decision 43/432, adopted a series of measures aimed at revitalizing the Council. With regard to its working methods and organization of work, the Council, inter alia, decided that, in formulating its biennial programme of work, the Council should, to the extent possible, consolidate similar or closely related issues under a single agenda item, in order to consider and take action on them in an integrated manner. The Council also decided that, prior to the organizational session, the President, with the cooperation of the other members of the Bureau, should arrange for consultations with members of the Council on the draft programme of work and provisional agenda prepared by the Secretary-General and on the allocation of agenda items and make proposals thereon for consideration by the Council.

3. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/264 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. Section III of the annex to that resolution contains a number of measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the Economic and Social Council. At its forty-eighth session, the Assembly adopted further measures in regard to the high-level segment, the coordination segment, the operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment and the general segment of the Council's substantive session (General Assembly resolution 48/162). Those segments are discussed below individually under the appropriate heading. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided that the Committees of the Council would be subsumed into the plenary as of 1994.

4. Annex II to General Assembly resolution 48/162 gives guidelines for the division of labour between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to be instituted as of 1994 and, in paragraph 7, sets out a listing of items for the agenda for the substantive session of the Council. That list has been followed in the preparation of the present proposed programme.

5. In decision 1993/231, the Council approved the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1994 and 1995 in the economic, social and related fields (E/1993/L.20/Rev.1 and Add.1), according to which the Council is to hold its substantive session in New York from 27 June to 29 July 1994.

6. The Secretary-General submits herewith for consideration by the Council a proposed basic programme of work for 1994 and 1995 and proposed provisional agenda for 1994.

7. Section I contains the proposed provisional agenda for the substantive session of the Council in 1994. Section II contains the annotations to the agenda items, the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative

authority for their preparation. Section III, which will be issued as an addendum to the present document, lists the questions which, in accordance with decisions adopted by the Council and the General Assembly, should be included in the Council's programme of work for 1995.

8. With regard to the report of the Trade and Development Board, the Council may wish to consider the report of the Board on the second part of its fortieth session (Geneva, 11-22 April 1994) and transmit directly to the Assembly the report of the Board on the first part of its forty-first session (Geneva, 19-30 September 1994).

9. It will be noted that an item on the United Nations University has not been included in the proposed programme of work. The report of the Council of the United Nations University is considered by the General Assembly on a biennial basis in even years and in depth by the Council in odd years. Since the report of the Council of the United Nations University on its work during 1993 will be considered by the Assembly in 1994, the Council may wish to decide to transmit it directly to the Assembly.

10. With regard to the selection of a subject relating to interregional cooperation, of interest to all regions, for detailed consideration under the agenda item on regional cooperation pursuant to Council decision 1982/174, the Council will be informed of the joint recommendations of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions in this regard.

I. PROPOSED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF 1994 OF THE COUNCIL

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

High-level segment

2. [Theme/themes to be selected.]

Coordination segment

3. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes:

   (a)/(b) [Theme/themes to be selected];

   (c) Implementation of the agreed conclusions on the themes of the 1993 coordination segment of the Council.

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

4. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation:

   (a) United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund;

   (b) United Nations Children's Fund;

   (c) World Food Programme.

General segment

5. Social, humanitarian and human rights questions: reports of subsidiary bodies, conferences and related questions:

   (a) Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance;

   (b) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

   (c) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations;

   (d) Human rights questions;

   (e) Advancement of women;

   (f) Social development questions;

   (g) Narcotic drugs;

(h) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

(i) Cultural development;

(j) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

6. Economic and environmental questions: reports of subsidiary bodies, conferences and related questions:

(a) Sustainable development;

(b) Cooperation in fisheries in Africa;

(c) Trade and development;

(d) Food and agricultural development;

(e) Transnational corporations;

(f) Natural resources;

(g) Energy;

(h) Population questions;

(i) Statistics;

(j) Cartography;

(k) International cooperation to mitigate the environmental consequences on Kuwait and other countries in the region resulting from the situation between Iraq and Kuwait;

(l) Public administration and finance;

(m) Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

7. Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields.

8. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories.

9. Coordination questions:

(a) Reports of the coordination bodies;

(b) International cooperation in the field of informatics;

(c) Multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health.

10. Non-governmental organizations.

11. Programme and related questions in the economic, social and related fields.

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Reports brought to the attention of the Council

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

11. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/264 and Council decision 1993/231, the Council will hold its substantive session of 1994 in New York from 27 June to 29 July.

A. High-level segment

Item 2. [Theme/themes to be selected.]

12. In the annex to its resolution 45/264, entitled "Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields", the General Assembly set out guidelines for the high-level segment of the Council. It is to be of four days' duration, open to all Member States in accordance with Article 69 of the Charter, with ministerial participation, devoted to the consideration of one or more major economic and/or social policy themes, which are to be determined at the organizational session. Adequate Secretariat preparation is to include, in particular, one comprehensive background document for each theme; debate is to follow an integrated and interdisciplinary approach; and heads of the relevant organizations, agencies and other organs are to participate actively. Heads of multilateral financial and trade institutions of the United Nations system will participate in a one-day policy dialogue and discussion on important developments in the world economy and international economic cooperation, with a view to building areas of understanding. The main features of the deliberations of the high-level segment are to be presented to the Council by its President in the form of a summary, which would be incorporated in its final report.

13. At its second regular session of 1988, the Council decided that it should undertake annually in-depth discussions of major policy themes, to be selected on the basis of a multi-year work programme (resolution 1988/77). In paragraph 4 of its resolution 1989/114, the Council decided that the thematic analyses should review existing activities and be forward-looking in identifying policy options and gave further guidelines for their presentation.

14. At its organizational session for 1990, the Council, in decision 1990/205, adopted pursuant to its resolution 1989/114, established on a provisional basis a multi-year work programme for the in-depth consideration of major policy themes during the period 1992-1994, which would be considered in the context of a high-level special meeting of the Council and a review of the current sessional arrangements. The list of themes would be reviewed annually and adjusted on a roll-over basis as necessary and as stipulated in the relevant paragraphs of Council resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114. The two themes included in the multi-year programme for 1994 are: "Technology and industrialization in the development process of the developing countries" and "International cooperation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs".

15. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly recommended that the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session, consider "An agenda for development" as a possible topic for the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1994 (Assembly resolution 48/166).

16. The Council will wish to select a theme or themes for the high-level segment at its organizational session for 1994.

17. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 48/162 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, in particular annex I, paragraph 13, which concerns the high-level segment.

B. Coordination segment

Item 3. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes:

(a)/(b) [Theme/themes to be selected.]

18. In the annex to its resolution 45/264, the General Assembly decided that a segment on coordination of the activities of the specialized agencies, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields should be held during the substantive session of the Council and organized as follows:

(a) A segment of four to five days devoted to the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system relating to the achievement of the economic and social objectives of the United Nations. Discussion would be organized around one or more themes selected at the organizational session, and designed to focus attention on the activities of the United Nations system in the selected economic and social areas;

(b) Discussion would take into account the report of the Secretary-General as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, together with appropriate recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination. That report should contain a system-wide assessment of the status of coordination with regard to the themes and include recommendations, as appropriate;

(c) The heads of concerned specialized agencies, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including multilateral financial and trade institutions, would be invited to participate actively, making contributions to the policy dialogue reflecting a global perspective on the agreed theme or themes, as well as their activities in the chosen themes;

(d) Recommendations which resulted from those discussions should be submitted to the General Assembly and forwarded, as appropriate, to the

governing bodies of the specialized agencies, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system as well as to the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination. In that context, the Secretary-General should arrange to apprise the next session of the Council of steps taken by the United Nations system to give effect to those recommendations (Assembly resolution 45/264, annex, sect. III, para. 5 (d) (ii)).

19. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 48/162 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, in particular annex I, paragraph 14, concerning the coordination segment.

20. It will be recalled that the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1993, recommended that, at its organizational session for 1994, it include science and technology for development as a priority subject to be considered for the coordination segment in 1994 (Council resolution 1993/71). The General Assembly, in resolution 48/179, endorsed that recommendation.

21. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council at its coordination segment in 1994 to examine the status of international cooperation within the United Nations system against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in order to recommend ways and means to improve such cooperation and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session (Assembly resolution 48/12).

22. The attention of the Council is also drawn to General Assembly resolution 48/112, in which the Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to pay particular attention to reviewing the agency-specific implementing plans of the System-Wide Action Plan for consideration by the Economic and Social Council at its coordination segment in 1994 and requested the Council, at its coordination segment, to give due attention to the role of the international financial institutions in supporting international drug control efforts, particularly in the field of alternative development.

(c) Implementation of the agreed conclusions on the themes of the 1993 coordination segment of the Council

23. At its substantive session of 1993, the Council considered the following two themes under the coordination segment: "Coordination of humanitarian assistance: emergency relief and the continuum to rehabilitation and development" and "Coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in the fields of preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera". In its decision 1993/205, the Council requested the Secretary-General to apprise the Council at its substantive session of 1994 of the steps taken by the United Nations system to give effect to those recommendations. In its agreed conclusions on the second theme (see A/48/3, chap. III, sect. B), the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of recommendations to improve coordination in the prevention and control of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases to it at its substantive session of 1994. The steps taken, while

expected to specifically address malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, should also facilitate better coordination of United Nations organizations in supporting countries in addressing other national priorities, especially those relating to health and development. The Council also agreed that, in returning to the subject in 1994, it should exert more fully its coordinating role as defined in the Charter of the United Nations, ascertaining priorities in relation to the overall work of the United Nations organizations concerned. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to include in his report to the Economic and Social Council on strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system with regard to natural disasters and other emergencies the recommendations of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (resolution 48/57).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system with regard to natural disasters and other emergencies

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of recommendations to improve coordination in the prevention and control of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases

C. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

24. In the annex to its resolution 45/264, the General Assembly decided that a segment of two to three days of the Council's session should be devoted to operational activities of the United Nations system, focusing, in particular, on the follow-up of policy recommendations and decisions of the Assembly and coordination of activities on a system-wide basis, taking into account Council resolution 1988/77.

25. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly, in annex I to its resolution 48/162, decided that the work of the operational activities segment would include a high-level meeting, open to all Member States in accordance with Article 69 of the Charter, including ministerial participation. Specific arrangements would be decided upon by the Council at its organizational session. The outcome of this segment should be reflected, inter alia, in the adoption of decisions and resolutions.

Item 4. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation

26. At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide a progress report on the implementation of its resolution 47/199. The report is expected to include progress in the introduction of the country strategy note and assessment of progress in the use of the programme approach, including evaluation, and national execution at the field level. It will also review progress on such provisions of the resolution as strengthening of the resident coordinator system, decentralization,

simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures, including in the area of evaluation, monitoring and audit. The Assembly also stressed the need for the Economic and Social Council to examine the operational activities of the United Nations system, with a view to taking appropriate action for the full implementation of the resolution and making recommendations thereon. In the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, after consultations with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to present to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1993 an appropriate management process containing clear guidelines, targets, benchmarks and time-frames for the full implementation of the resolution, and to submit to the Council at its substantive sessions of 1993 and 1994 a progress report on the implementation of the resolution. In resolution 1993/7, the Economic and Social Council took note of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199 (E/1993/73); requested the Secretary-General further to develop the work programme for the implementation of Assembly resolution 47/199, contained in annex I to his report, with a view to setting results-oriented targets; and decided to review the implementation of resolution 1993/7, as part of the review of the implementation of Assembly resolution 47/199.

(a) United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund

(b) United Nations Children's Fund

27. The attention of the Council is drawn to annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/162, in particular paragraphs 21 to 30, in regard to the governing bodies of the United Nations development funds and programmes. The Assembly decided that the current governing bodies of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund should be transformed into Executive Boards. Those Boards would be responsible for providing intergovernmental support to and supervision of the activities of each fund or programme in accordance with the overall policy guidance of the Assembly and the Council, in accordance with the respective responsibility as set out in the Charter, and for ensuring that they are responsible to the needs and priorities of recipient countries. The Boards would be subject to the authority of the Council and are to submit annual reports to it at its substantive session, which could include recommendations, where appropriate, for improvement of field-level coordination. Each Executive Board is to meet in an annual session.

28. As the 1994 meeting schedules of the new Executive Boards are yet to be established, the Council will be informed at a later date of the dates of their annual sessions and the timing of submission of their reports.

(c) World Food Programme

29. In annex I to its resolution 48/162, paragraph 30, the General Assembly decided that the arrangements regarding the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund should apply to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the World Food Programme, and consultations between the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations should be undertaken as soon as

possible for that purpose. The Committee submits an annual report to the Council (Assembly resolution 3404 (XXX)). The Committee will adopt its nineteenth annual report, covering the year 1993, at its thirty-seventh session, to be held at Rome from 23 to 27 May 1994.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/ United Nations Population Fund

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund

Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes

D. General segment

Item 5. Social, humanitarian and human rights questions: reports of subsidiary bodies, conferences and related questions

(a) Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

30. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare an annual report on the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations, including information on the central emergency revolving fund, to be submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (resolution 46/182, annex). At its forty-eighth session, the Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to include in that report recommendations on practical measures to enhance the coordinated system-wide support to efforts to facilitate the transition from emergency relief to rehabilitation and development and ways and means to improve the operational capacity of the emergency stockpiles, as well as an analysis of the advantages or disadvantages, taking into account the existing facilities and the possibility of strengthening them, and information on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution (resolution 48/57).

31. Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda. The Secretary-General apprises the Council annually of the status of this question (resolution 1983/46).

32. The Council will also hear oral reports on the following questions:

(a) Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. At its substantive session of 1993, the Council appealed to all Member States and all organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their efforts to mobilize all possible assistance for the Government of Lebanon in its reconstruction and development efforts, and invited the Secretary-General to inform the Council, at its substantive session of 1994, of the progress made in the implementation of the resolution (resolution 1993/59).

(b) Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/201, in which it requested the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation in Somalia, to take all necessary measures for the implementation of the resolution, to apprise the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994 of the progress made and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

(c) Situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive and consolidated report on the question to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, and an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994 (resolution 48/118).

33. The Council will also have before it the following reports:

(a) Assistance to Yemen. At its substantive session of 1993, the Council encouraged the international community to respond actively to the needs of Yemen, and requested donor States to continue to provide assistance on a bilateral and multilateral basis, with a view to enabling Yemen to address the emergency situation; it requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council, at its substantive session of 1994, a written report on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution (resolution 1993/58). The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 48/195 on the subject.

(b) Special assistance to Namibia. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly endorsed the decision of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1991/50 to invite States, organizations of the United Nations system and other donor agencies to grant Namibia for a number of years assistance of a scope comparable to that given to a least developed country and invited the Committee for Development Planning to review the situation of Namibia, taking into account its need for special assistance, and to make recommendations thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council (Assembly resolution 46/204).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1993/58 on assistance to Yemen

Report of the Secretary-General on special assistance to Namibia

(b) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

34. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1993-2003), as requested by the General Assembly in

its resolution 48/91, paragraph 16. In that resolution, the Assembly proclaimed the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, beginning in 1993, and adopted the Programme of Action for the Decade, as contained in the annex to the resolution. The General Assembly entrusted the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, in cooperation with the Secretary-General, with the responsibility for coordinating the programmes and evaluating the activities undertaken in connection with the Decade and requested the Secretary-General to submit each year to the Economic and Social Council a detailed report on all activities of United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, analysing the information received on such activities to combat racism and racial discrimination.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

(c) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

35. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. At its substantive session of 1993, the Economic and Social Council requested its President to continue to maintain close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, which is the focal point for the international campaign against apartheid, and to report thereon to the Council; it requested the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the resolution and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 1994 (resolution 1993/55). At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested the Council to continue, as appropriate, to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly (resolution 48/47).

36. Assistance to the oppressed people of South Africa and their national liberation movement by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. The Council reviews annually, in consultation with the Special Committee against Apartheid, the assistance provided by agencies and institutions of the United Nations system in the context of General Assembly resolution 33/183 K.

37. Assistance to the Palestinian people. At its sixty-third session, in 1977, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to it annual reports on the question of assistance to the Palestinian people (resolution 2100 (LXIII)). At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly, inter alia, took note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/183-E/1993/74 and Add.1); suggested the

convening in 1993/94, under the appropriate United Nations auspices, of a seminar on Palestinian trade and investment needs in the light of the new developments and requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, at its forty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the resolution (Assembly resolution 48/213).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the President of the Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people

(d) Human rights questions

38. The Council will consider the general comments adopted by the Human Rights Committee at its fiftieth session and the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its eighth, ninth and tenth sessions, as well as the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

39. The Council will also consider the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fiftieth session (Geneva, 31 January-11 March 1994) and the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The provisional agenda and documentation for the fiftieth session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 1993/300.

40. The Council will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the suppression of the traffic in persons and of contemporary forms of slavery and slavery-like practices.

41. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) entered into force on 23 March 1976. In accordance with article 45 of the Covenant, the Human Rights Committee reports annually on its activities to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. In 1994, the Human Rights Committee is to hold its fiftieth session at Headquarters from 21 March to 8 April, its fifty-first session at Geneva from 11 to 29 July and its fifty-second session at Geneva from 17 October to 4 November.

42. It will be recalled that, at its organizational session for 1983, the Council invited the Human Rights Committee to consider the possibility of rescheduling its meetings so that its report could be submitted to the General Assembly through the Council at its first regular session (decision 1983/101). At its organizational session for 1985, the Council agreed to the interim

arrangement proposed by the Human Rights Committee, namely, that the Committee would transmit to the Council, on a regular basis, the text of the general comments adopted by the Committee in accordance with article 40, paragraph 4, of the Covenant; and, without prejudice to further consideration of the present arrangements at a future session, the Council decided to authorize the Secretary-General to transmit the annual report of the Human Rights Committee directly to the General Assembly (decision 1985/105).

43. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was entrusted by the Council, as from 1987, with overseeing the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council resolution 1985/17). It will be recalled that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) entered into force on 3 January 1976. Under Article 16 of the Covenant, States parties to the Covenant undertake to submit to the Secretary-General reports on the measures which they have adopted and on the progress made in achieving the observance of the rights recognized in the Covenant. The Secretary-General is required to transmit copies of the reports to the Council for its consideration.

44. At its substantive session of 1992, the Council, noting the long-standing backlog of reports of States parties awaiting consideration by the Committee, authorized, on an exceptional basis, the holding of an extraordinary additional session of the Committee in the first half of 1993 (decision 1992/259). In accordance with that decision, the Committee held its eighth session from 10 to 28 May 1993 and the Council, at its substantive session of 1993, had before it an extract from the report of the Committee on its eighth session. The Council decided to give further consideration to the question of resources to enable the Committee to involve experts in its general discussion at its substantive session of 1994, taking into account the full report of the Committee on its eighth session (decision 1993/298). The Council will, therefore, have before it the report of the Committee on its eighth session.

45. It will also have before it the report of the Committee on its ninth session, held at Geneva from 22 November to 10 December 1993.

46. Also at its substantive session of 1993, the Council, in view of the backlog of States parties' reports awaiting consideration by the Committee, authorized, on an exceptional basis, the holding of an extraordinary additional session of the Committee in the first half of 1994 (decision 1993/296). Accordingly, the Committee is scheduled to hold its tenth session at Geneva from 2 to 20 May 1994.

47. Committee on the Rights of the Child. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Assembly resolution 44/25, annex). In accordance with article 43 of the Convention, the Committee on the Rights of the Child was established, for the purpose of examining the progress made by States parties in achieving the realization of the obligations undertaken in the Convention. In accordance with article 44 of the Convention, the Committee submits reports on its activities to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, every two years.

48. Commission on Human Rights. The report of the Commission is expected to include its response to the following resolutions:

(a) Assembly resolution 48/127, in which the Assembly requested the Commission to consider proposals for a United Nations decade for human rights education and for those proposals to be composed by the Secretary-General into a plan of action for such a decade and to be submitted through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session for the proclamation of a decade for human rights education;

(b) Assembly resolution 48/144, in which the Assembly decided to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights in Iraq during its forty-ninth session in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission and the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Assembly resolution 48/145, in which the Assembly decided to continue the examination of the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the situation of minority groups, such as the Baha'is, during its forty-ninth session in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission and the Economic and Social Council;

(d) Assembly resolution 48/151, in which the Assembly decided to keep the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Haiti under review during its forty-ninth session and to consider it further in the light of the information supplied by the Commission and the Economic and Social Council;

(e) Assembly resolution 48/152, in which the Assembly decided to keep under consideration during its forty-ninth session the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission and the Economic and Social Council.

49. Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly decided to create the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights; it also decided, inter alia, that the High Commissioner for Human Rights would be the United Nations official with principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities under the direction and authority of the Secretary-General. The Assembly requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report annually on his/her activities, in accordance with his/her mandate, to the Commission on Human Rights and, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly (resolution 48/141).

50. Suppression of the traffic in persons. At its substantive session of 1993, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a further report to the Council, at its substantive session of 1994, on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in Council resolution 1983/30 by those Member States, United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations that had not yet submitted such information and to make that report available to the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. The Council also urged the Secretary-General to ensure effective servicing of the Working Group and of other activities related to the suppression of contemporary forms of slavery and slavery-like practices, and to report to the Council at its

substantive session of 1994 on the steps taken in that regard. It reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to designate the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat as the focal point for the coordination of activities in the United Nations for the suppression of contemporary forms of slavery, and requested the Secretary-General to report on the follow-up of that request (resolution 1993/48).

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the general comments of the Human Rights Committee on its fiftieth session

Reports of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its eighth, ninth and tenth sessions

Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fiftieth session

Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Report of the Secretary-General on the suppression of the traffic in persons and of contemporary forms of slavery and slavery-like practices

Documents for information

Reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and by the specialized agencies

Reports submitted by the specialized agencies in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX)

Summary records of the eighth, ninth and tenth sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

(e) Advancement of women

51. The Council will consider the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its thirteenth session (New York, 17 January-4 February 1994), the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on the work of its thirty-eighth session (New York, 7-18 March 1994) and the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its fourteenth session (Santo Domingo, 21-25 February 1994). The provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 1993/233.

52. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex). The Convention entered into force on 3 September 1981. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was established under article 17 of the Convention for the purpose of considering the progress made in the implementation of the Convention. Under

article 21 of the Convention, the Committee shall report annually on its activities to the General Assembly through the Council and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States parties to the Convention.

53. Report of the Commission on the Status of Women. In accordance with Council resolution 1990/15, the following three priority themes are to be considered by the Commission at its thirty-eighth session: under equality, equal pay for work of equal value, including methodologies for measurement of pay inequities and work in the informal sector; under development, women in urban areas: population, nutrition and health factors for women in development, including migration, drug consumption and AIDS; and under peace, measures to eradicate violence against women in the family and society.

54. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested the Commission on the Status of Women to examine the implications of the World Conference on Human Rights and the Programme of Action of the Conference for its central role in matters related to women's rights within the United Nations system and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994 (Assembly resolution 48/108).

55. The report of the Commission is expected to include recommendations on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. In its resolution 1988/22, the Council established a comprehensive reporting system to monitor, review and appraise the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and decided that the biennial reports of the Secretary-General on monitoring of progress made by the organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies should be considered by the Commission on the Status of Women in even-numbered years, beginning in 1990.

56. Merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in accordance with rule 157 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994 a report on the proposed merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women. It also requested the Secretary-General, in this context, to include in his report consideration of the potential duplication of training activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women. It requested that the Economic and Social Council submit its final recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session for its consideration and action before 31 December 1994 (resolution 48/11).

57. Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace. In its resolution 1990/12, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission on the Status of Women, as the preparatory body for the Fourth World Conference on Women, to include preparations for the Conference in its regular work programme during the period 1991-1995. It is expected that the report of

the Commission will include recommendations on the preparations for the Conference, including the draft platform of action.

58. Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. At its sixtieth session, in 1976, the Council decided to establish the Institute as an autonomous body under the auspices of the United Nations, funded through voluntary contributions; it also decided on guidelines for the Institute (resolution 1998 (LX)). The statute of the Board was approved by the Council and endorsed by the General Assembly (Council decision 1984/124 and Assembly resolution 39/249). The Institute functions under the authority of a Board of Trustees, which reports annually to the Council.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its thirteenth session

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-eighth session

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its fourteenth session

(f) Social development questions

59. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The Council will consider the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its third session (Vienna, 25 April-6 May 1994) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The provisional agenda and documentation for the session were approved by the Council in decision 1993/243.

60. International cooperation in combating organized crime. At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to continue to consider ways of strengthening international cooperation in combating organized crime and to submit its views, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session (Assembly resolution 47/87).

61. Strengthening of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme. At its substantive session of 1993, the Council, deeply concerned about the delay in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 46/152 and 47/91 and Council resolution 1992/22, with respect to strengthening, as resources permit, the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme and upgrading the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch into a division, requested the Secretary-General, as a matter of urgency, to give effect to the above-mentioned resolutions by strengthening the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch and to report to the Economic and Social Council at

its substantive session of 1994, through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, on progress made in the implementation of Council resolutions 1992/22 and 1993/31 (resolution 1993/31).

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its third session

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1992/22 and 1993/31

(g) Narcotic drugs

62. The Council will consider the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its thirty-seventh session (Vienna, 13-22 April 1994) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission were approved by the Council in decision 1993/245.

63. Report of the International Narcotics Control Board. In accordance with article 15, paragraph 1, of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, article 18, paragraph 1, of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and article 23, paragraph 1, of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the Board will report to the Council, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on its work for 1993.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its thirty-seventh session

Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1993

(h) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

64. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly proclaimed the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, beginning on 1 January 1990. The Assembly adopted the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, in which, inter alia, the Economic and Social Council, in 1994, is to carry out a mid-term review of the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade and report its findings to the General Assembly (resolution 44/236, annex).

65. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 48/188, in which the Assembly decided to convene the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in 1994.

(i) Cultural development

66. In its resolution 41/187, the General Assembly proclaimed the period 1988-1997 the World Decade for Cultural Development and requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to report biennially to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress of the Decade.

67. In its resolution 46/157, the Assembly invited the Secretary-General and the Director-General of UNESCO to undertake the preparation of a global mid-term review of the Decade, to be carried out by the Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

68. At its organizational session for 1993, the Council decided to postpone consideration of the biennial progress report on the Decade and to combine that report with the global mid-term review of the Decade, to be undertaken by the Council at its substantive session of 1994 and by the Assembly at its forty-ninth session (Council decision 1993/209).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(j) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

69. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports annually to the General Assembly through the Council, in conformity with paragraph 11 of the Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (General Assembly resolution 428 (v), annex).

70. At its fifty-first session, in 1971, the Council decided that the report of the High Commissioner should be transmitted to the Assembly without debate, unless the Council decided otherwise, at the specific request of one or more of its members or of the High Commissioner, at the time of the adoption of its agenda (resolution 1623 (LI), sect. II).

Documentation

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Item 6. Economic and environmental questions: reports of subsidiary bodies, conferences and related questions

71. The Council will have before it the World Economic Survey, 1994, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 118 (II) and Council resolution 1983/50. The Survey will include an overview of the major economic and social developments of global significance and their policy implications, as well as an assessment of short-term prospects for the world economy. The subjects and emerging issues to be addressed in greater detail, both globally and for major countries and groups of countries, will include the following: output; international trade; international financial flows, including the transfer of financial resources and the debt situation of both developing countries and economies in transition; energy markets; employment and unemployment; and

population. In each case, an assessment of current policies will be an integral part of the analysis. The Survey will also include a statistical annex.

72. At its 48th meeting, on 8 December 1993, the Council approved the convening of the twenty-ninth session of the Committee for Development Planning from 12 to 14 January 1994. The Committee will report on the work of that session.

73. Technical cooperation among developing countries. At its substantive session of 1992, the Council, concerned that technical cooperation among developing countries since the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries had not been widespread and was still marginally applied in the implementation of programmes and projects, urged the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations of the United Nations system dealing with development to consider improvements to the working and scope of the Information Referral System and to intensify their efforts to build national capacity for human resources development in developing countries; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994 on his assessment of the implementation of the resolution (resolution 1992/41).

74. Financing science and technology for development. At its substantive session of 1993, the Council decided to maintain as a priority its efforts to enable developing countries to address their needs for funds and cooperation to enhance the input of science and technology into their development programmes and to build up an endogenous capacity on the basis of the priorities and plans of developing countries; and requested the Secretary-General, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 46/165, in which the Assembly requested concrete proposals for organizing a more effective coalition of resources to meet scientific and technological needs of developing countries, to convene a consultative meeting in 1993 and to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1994, a report on the implementation of its resolution 1993/73.

75. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to continue to update the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development and to submit a preliminary version to the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission on the Status of Women in 1993 and a final version in 1994 (Assembly resolution 46/98). At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a preliminary version of the updated World Survey on the Role of Women in Development to the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission, in 1994 (Assembly resolution 48/108).

76. At its second regular session of 1986, the Council requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to submit to the Council, on a biennial basis, a summary of the main research findings of the United Nations system on major global economic and social trends, policies and emerging issues (Council resolution 1986/51, part VI).

Documentation

World Economic Survey, 1994

Report of the Committee for Development Planning on its twenty-ninth session

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/41 on technical cooperation among developing countries

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 1993/73

Preliminary version of the updated World Survey on the Role of Women in Development

Relevant sections of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-eighth session

Report of the Secretary-General on the main research findings of the United Nations system on major global economic and social trends, policies and emerging issues

(a) Sustainable development

77. At its organizational session for 1993, the Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/191, established the Commission on Sustainable Development as a functional commission of the Council, in order, inter alia, to ensure the effective follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (decision 1993/207). The functions of the Commission are set out in paragraphs 3 to 5 of General Assembly resolution 47/191. The Assembly recommended that the Commission, in discharging its functions, submit its consolidated recommendations to the Economic and Social Council and, through it, to the General Assembly.

78. The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session. The provisional agenda for the second session was approved by the Council in decision 1993/314.

79. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly invited the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and requested the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in accordance with their respective mandates and competencies and in close cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies and the regional commissions, to address comprehensively trade and environmental matters, and to submit, through the Commission on Sustainable Development, a report on this question to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994 (Assembly resolution 48/55).

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on trade and environmental matters

(b) Cooperation in fisheries in Africa

80. At its substantive session of 1992, the Council, inter alia, took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation in fisheries in Africa (A/47/279-E/1992/79 and Corr.1); and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1994, a report by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, working in cooperation with the other relevant organizations and in close consultation with the Acting Chairman of the Ministerial Conference on Cooperation in Fisheries among the African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean, on the progress achieved in the implementation of the resolution and on the outcome of the third session of the Conference which was held in Cape Verde in 1993 (resolution 1992/54).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on cooperation in fisheries in Africa

(c) Trade and development

81. It is expected that the Council will consider the report of the Trade and Development Board on the second part of its fortieth session (Geneva, 11-22 April 1994) and transmit directly to the General Assembly the report of the Board on the first part of its forty-first session (Geneva, 19-30 September 1994).

Documentation

Report of the Trade and Development Board on the second part of its fortieth session

Report of the Trade and Development Board on the pre-sessional executive session

(d) Food and agricultural development

82. It is expected that the Council will review the report of the World Food Council (Assembly resolution 3348 (XXIX)). In doing so, the Council will consider only specific recommendations contained therein that require action by the Council and proposals on matters relating to the coordination aspect of the work of the World Food Council. 1/

1/ The report of the World Food Council will be considered by the General Assembly in 1994.

Documentation

Report of the World Food Council

(e) Transnational corporations

83. The Council will consider the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its twentieth session (Geneva, 2-11 May 1994) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The Council approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the session in decision 1993/304. At its substantive session of 1993, the Council decided that the Commission should review its future activities at its twentieth session and, if appropriate, make recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, in the context of the ongoing restructuring of the United Nations in the economic and social fields (resolution 1993/49).

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its twentieth session

(f) Natural resources

84. In decision 1992/218, the Council established the Committee on Natural Resources, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/235. At its substantive session of 1993, the Council decided that the second session of the Committee should be held in 1994, that the normal two-year cycle of meetings would resume at that time and that the third session would be held in 1996; it also approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the second session of the Committee. The Council requested the Committee to review at its second session, as a matter of priority, its recommendations relating to water, with a view to making a contribution to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second session, in 1994 (decision 1993/302).

85. The Committee on Natural Resources is to hold its second session at Headquarters from 22 February to 4 March 1994.

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its second session

(g) Energy

86. In decision 1992/218, the Council established the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/235. The Committee will report to the Council on the work of its first session (Headquarters, 7-18 February 1994).

87. At its substantive session of 1992, the Council took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on energy exploration and development trends in developing countries (A/47/202-E/1992/51); reaffirmed that an adequate flow of external resources in support of the national efforts of developing

countries was needed to finance the exploration and development of their energy resources; requested the Secretary-General to keep the matter under constant review and to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994 a report on the efforts made in this regard. It also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994 on the role of the United Nations in devising ways and means of mobilizing the international community to increase efforts for comprehensive national, bilateral and multilateral measures to accelerate the exploration and development of energy resources in developing countries, with full respect for their national sovereignty (resolution 1992/56).

Documentation

Report of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development on its first session

Report of the Secretary-General on exploration and development of energy resources in developing countries

(h) Population questions

88. The Council will consider the report of the Population Commission on its twenty-seventh session (Headquarters, 28-31 March 1994) (Council resolution 150 (VII)) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission were approved by the Council in decision 1991/308. At its organizational session for 1993, the Council decided to postpone the twenty-seventh session of the Commission until 1994 (resolution 1993/4).

89. International Conference on Population and Development. At its second regular session of 1989, the Council decided to convene in 1994 an international meeting on population and designated the Population Commission as the preparatory committee (resolution 1989/91). At its second regular session of 1991, the Council decided that the meeting should henceforth be called the International Conference on Population and Development and requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to report to the Council in 1992, 1993 and 1994 on the progress made in all aspects of the preparatory activities for the Conference. The Council accepted the offer of the Government of Egypt to host the Conference and decided to convene the Conference in Cairo from 5 to 11 September 1994 (resolution 1991/93). Attention is also drawn to General Assembly resolution 48/186 on the subject.

Documentation

Report of the Population Commission on its twenty-seventh session

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the preparatory activities for the International Conference on Population and Development

(i) Statistics

90. At its substantive session of 1993, the Council decided that a special session of the Statistical Commission should be held in 1994 to review progress made in the implementation of the recommendations and decisions for strengthening the international statistical system in general and to monitor progress made in implementing the revised System of National Accounts and review plans for the further essential research work already identified (resolution 1993/6). The special session of the Commission will be held at Headquarters from 11 to 15 April 1994.

Documentation

Report of the Statistical Commission on its special session

(j) Cartography

91. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Beijing, 10-18 May 1994) (decision 1991/222).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific

(k) International cooperation to mitigate the environmental consequences on Kuwait and other countries in the region resulting from the situation between Iraq and Kuwait

92. At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, through his Personal Representative, to render assistance to the members of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment in the formulation and implementation of a coordinated and consolidated programme of action comprising costed project profiles, to help identify all possible resources for the programme of action and, inter alia, for strengthening the environmental capacities of the members of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment to deal with that problem, and to allocate, within existing resources, the minimum resources required to enable his Personal Representative to continue to help coordinate the activities of the United Nations system to that end, and to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the resolution (General Assembly resolution 47/151).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/151

(l) Public administration and finance

93. The Council reviews the question of public administration and finance every two years, following the meeting of the Group of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance (Council resolution 1199 (XXII)). At its substantive session of 1992, the Council, taking note of the report of the Tenth Meeting of Experts, requested the Secretary-General to convene the Eleventh Meeting in 1993 (decision 1992/287). The Eleventh Meeting of Experts was held at Geneva from 6 to 14 October 1993.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the Eleventh Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance

(m) Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States

94. At its twenty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974). Article 34 of the Charter provides that the General Assembly shall carry out periodically a systematic and comprehensive consideration of the implementation of the Charter. At its thirtieth session, the General Assembly, inter alia, decided to entrust the Economic and Social Council with the task of reviewing the implementation of the Charter with a view to preparing adequately its systematic and comprehensive consideration by the General Assembly, as provided in article 34 of the Charter (resolution 3486 (XXX) of 12 December 1975). In accordance with article 34, the review is to be undertaken every five years.

95. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session an analytical report on the progress achieved in compliance with the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and its impact on the solution of the main economic problems confronting the developing countries and the reactivation of their economic growth and development (resolution 44/170).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States

Item 7. Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

96. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation and take the necessary action on the decisions and recommendations of the regional commissions contained therein.

97. The Council will also have before it the summaries of the surveys of regional economic and social conditions prepared by the regional commissions, highlighting the main problems and prospects of those regions. At its first regular session of 1979, the Council decided to discontinue the submission to it of the reports of the regional commissions (decision 1979/1). The reports are

transmitted directly to all Member States. The Secretary-General, in his annual report on regional cooperation, in addition to reporting on the meetings of the executive secretaries, highlights developments within each region and draws the Council's attention to specific issues requiring its consideration. The report of the Secretary-General will bring to the Council's attention any decisions or recommendations of the Commissions that statutorily require approval by the Council.

98. At its second regular session of 1982, the Council decided to identify, at its annual organizational session, a subject relating to interregional cooperation, of common interest to all regions, for detailed consideration under the agenda item on regional cooperation and to request the executive secretaries of the regional commissions to submit their joint recommendations in this regard to the Council at its annual organizational session (decision 1982/174). A section on interregional cooperation dealing with the topic selected will be included in the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation.

99. At its organizational session for 1993, the Council requested the regional commissions, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, to examine at their forthcoming sessions the relevant provisions of chapter 38 of Agenda 21 2/ and to submit to the Council reports containing their conclusions related to such a review and their plans to implement Agenda 21. Those reports will also be annexed to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (decision 1993/213).

100. A Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific during the period 1985-1994 was proclaimed by the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session (resolution 39/227). At its second regular session of 1991, the Council endorsed resolution 47/10 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on phase II of the Decade; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its regular session of 1992 and every two years thereafter until the end of the Decade a report on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 1991/75).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation

Summaries of the surveys of economic and social conditions in the five regions, prepared by the regional commissions

Report of the Secretary-General on phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), resolution 1, annex II.

Item 8. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

101. At its substantive session of 1993, the Council adopted resolution 1993/52, entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan". The Council reaffirmed the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan to their natural and all other economic resources, and regarded any infringement thereof as being without any legal validity; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the progress made in the implementation of resolution 1993/52. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 48/212 on the subject.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 1993/52 and General Assembly resolution 48/212

Item 9. Coordination questions

(a) Reports of the coordination bodies

102. The report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) on its thirty-fourth session (Headquarters, May-June 1994) will include the Committee's views on its consideration of the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).

103. ACC submits an annual overview report to the Council (Council resolution 13 (III)), which will provide the Council with a summary of the work carried out by the ACC machinery in 1993.

104. The Council will have before it the report of the Chairmen of CPC and ACC on the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees, held at Headquarters on 27 October 1993.

Documentation

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-fourth session

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1993

Report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the Joint Meetings of the two Committees (E/1994/4)

(b) International cooperation in the field of informatics

105. At its substantive session of 1993, the Council, taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (E/1993/86), expressed concern at the limited progress achieved thus far; requested that the initial phases of the action programme to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States be implemented from within existing resources, and in full consultation with the representatives of States; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1994 on the follow-up action taken on the resolution (resolution 1993/56).

106. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly approved the recommendations and observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as expressed in chapter II of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 (A/48/7), in which the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General review the current work programme, delivery and progress of the Information Systems Coordination Committee (formerly the Advisory Committee for Coordination of Information Systems), especially its impact on the efficient operation and further development of information systems in the United Nations system, and submit an evaluation report on the Information Systems Coordination Committee to the Economic and Social Council for its review (resolution 48/228).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up action taken on Council resolution 1993/56

Report of the Secretary-General on the Information Systems Coordination Committee

(c) Multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health

107. At its substantive session of 1993, the Council took note of the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the need for multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health (E/1993/56, annex); requested the Secretary-General to establish, under the auspices of the World Health Organization and within existing resources, a focal point, within existing institutions of the United Nations system, on the subject of multisectoral collaboration on the economic and social aspects of tobacco production and consumption, taking into particular account the serious health consequences of tobacco use, and to ensure that the work of the focal point begin as soon as possible. It also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council, at its substantive session of 1994, on progress made by the United Nations system focal point in the implementation of multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health (resolution 1993/79).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health

Item 10. Non-governmental organizations

108. At its organizational session for 1993, the Council decided to conduct a general review of current arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations, as determined by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968, and requested the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to consider the modalities for such a review and submit its proposals to the Council at its substantive session of 1993 (decision 1993/214).

109. At its substantive session of 1993, the Council decided to establish an open-ended working group to review the arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations and invited the working group to submit for consideration a progress report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1944 and to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session. The Council also requested the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at an inter-sessional meeting in 1994 to review the progress report and to transmit its comments to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994 and decided to consider the question at its substantive session of 1994 and to make recommendations to the General Assembly with a view to finalizing the general review by 1995, as called for in its decision 1993/214 (resolution 1993/80).

Documentation

Report of the working group to review the arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its inter-sessional meeting of 1994

Item 11. Programme and related questions in the economic, social and related fields

Enhancement of the role and capability of the United Nations Secretariat

110. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/162 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, in which it requested the Secretary-General to make recommendations to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994 on ways and means to enhance the role of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, including recommendations on the advantages of establishing a system of integrated reports in the economic, social and related fields.

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

111. The Council will have before it the revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 covering activities in the economic, social and related fields. The Council will examine the revisions in the light of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the matter (Council resolution 1988/77).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means to enhance the role and capabilities of the United Nations Secretariat

Relevant chapters of the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-fourth session

Reports brought to the attention of the Council

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

112. In accordance with the procedures set out in the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, as approved by the General Assembly in resolution 31/192, the Joint Inspection Unit reports annually to the Council on activities under the general responsibility of the Council. In accordance with the practice followed by the Council, reports that relate to agenda items will be considered under those items; reports that do not relate to agenda items will be considered separately.

113. At its thirty-eighth session, the General Assembly invited United Nations organs, when considering reports of the Joint Inspection Unit, to bear in mind the recommendation contained in paragraph 12 of the 1983 annual report of the Unit (resolution 38/229). The recommendation read as follows:

"Because of the method of discussion of JIU reports in the past, clear decisions on the recommendations contained in JIU reports have not always been taken. This lack of clarity hinders effective follow-up by JIU. Legislative bodies of participating organizations could consider the possibility of adopting formulations along the following lines:

"(a) Approves recommendations _____, and _____;

"(b) Approves recommendations _____, and _____ in the light of the comments thereon by the Secretary-General (and/or ACC; and/or the debate in the Committee);

"(c) Reserves its position on recommendations _____, and _____ in the light of the debate in the Committee;

"(d) Does not approve recommendations _____, and _____." 3/

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/38/34), para. 12.

114. At its forty-second session, the General Assembly requested all bodies of the United Nations system to examine closely those reports of the Joint Inspection Unit that were within their respective areas of competence and to comment, as appropriate, on the recommendations contained therein (resolution 42/218). The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 45/237.